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IN THE SPECIFICATION

[0026] Figure 2, wherein like elements are numbered alike, illustrates an exemplary multi-compartment electrolytic reactor 70 configured with three compartments. The three-compartment electrolytic reactor 70 generally comprises an anode compartment 72, a central compartment 74, and a cathode compartment 76. The central compartment 74 is interposed between the anode and cathode compartments 72, 76, respectively, and is separated therefrom by membranes 90 and 92. Each compartment 72, 74, and 76, preferably includes inlets 78, 80, 82, respectively, and outlets 84, 86, and 88 outlets 82, 84 and 86, respectively. The anode compartment 72 includes anode 32 and can be optionally filled with the particulate material 40. The cathode compartment 76 includes cathode 34 and can be optionally filled with the particulate material 40. The anode 32 and cathode 34 are in electrical communication with a source of direct current 36 (DC).